of nutritionus supplement to children from 6 months to 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers to break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition in the below poverty line population in backward districts of the country is one of the important components of the scheme.

Edible oil extraction industry

†4148. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the full use of installed capacity in edible oil extraction industry is possible by providing appropriate quantity of oilseeds;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the total quantity of oilseeds production assessed to be required for using the full installed extraction capacity in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The domestic production of oilseeds is short of the total requirement of Solvent Extraction Industry. In order to enhance utilization of capacity of the Solvent Extraction Industry, Government has allowed import of oilseeds and oil bearing materials except coconut/copra under Open General License (OGL).

(c) There are 785 Solvent Extraction Plants having annual capacity of 337 lakhs MT in terms of oil bearing materials in the country. The requirement of the Solvent Extraction Industry for full utilization of the installed capacity is, therefore, 337 lakhs MT in terms of oil bearing materials including oilseeds.

Essential Commodities Act

4149. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Essential Commodities Act;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the difficulties being experienced in implementing the present Act and the specific provisions thereof sought to be amended ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2000 seeking to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to make it more effective while eliminating unnecessary harassment to genuine traders has already been introduced in Lok Sabha on 8-3-2000. The amendments include increase in fines and imprisonment; making all offences cognizable and non-bailable except minor offences committed for the first time; requirement of prior permission of an officer not below the rank of Executive Magistrate for making entry, search and seizure; power of arrest to be exercised by an officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police; sale of seized goods through the Public Distribution System; provision for allowance of margin between physical stock and stock in record; appeal against confiscation to lie with the State Government and deletion of the item "component parts and accessories of automobiles" from the list of essential commodities.

Voters Identity Cards as Ration Cards

4150. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Voters Identity Cards issued by the Election Commission of India wherein it is clearly written,—"This card may be used as an identity card under different Government Schemes" can be used in an application for a ration card;

(b) if so, whether any instructions have been given to various Departments in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Implementation of TPDS including identification of beneficiaries and issue of ration cards is the responsibility of State Government